

The Seaton

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Beer & Colyton Experience

April 2016 • Issue 4

*The ultimate guide
to spring and summer
in the Axe Valley's
most popular resorts...*





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**Dining Out around
Seaton, Beer & Colyton**

Welcome to The Seaton, Beer & Colyton Experience

IN THE heart of the wonderful Axe Valley, you will find Seaton. It's here that sea and countryside come together to offer East Devon's visitors an unforgettable holiday experience.

From its stunning coastline and beautiful landscapes to the traditional seaside fun and friendly shops the town has to offer, Seaton has something for everyone. You can get active with a refreshing coastal walk, hit the water on a kayak - or just chill out on the beach. The choice is yours!

Nestling in the centre of Lyme Bay, with the historic port of Axmouth to the east and the quaint fishing village of Beer to the west, Seaton provides the ideal base for sampling the delights of the West Country.

Further inland, the area is peppered with typical Devon villages with the county's most rebellious town, Colyton, a must on the tourist trail.

With its unique wetlands, one of the UK's most acclaimed spots for wildlife watching, safe beaches and numerous holiday attractions, Seaton and its surrounds provides one of the South West's most memorable experiences.



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Buddy & Bruce's DOGGY DAY OUT

in Colyford & Seaton



SEATON SEAFRONT

Our fury friends aren't allowed on every part of Seaton's long pebbled beach, but they can enjoy a good gallop across a large area. Dogs are allowed all year round on the second beach zone, which in more ordinary terms, is the stretch from Fisherman's gap all the way across to Seaton Hole. Dog bins are also provided just incase you need to dispose of a present from your pooch.



The human was allowed to gorge on a homemade beef burger, which she polished off quickly, but allowed Bruce, and Buddy a little taster of the succulent sustenance while she munched on some proper chips and supped a glass of spritzer.

With local Badger Countryside Ales and Ciders and a good choice of wines and spirits, the Wheelwright Inn is the ideal place to enjoy a drink in the sunshine this spring.

Having somewhere to spend time with our four legged friends has become an important part of life for both visitors and locals alike and Seaton is a haven for those seeking a furry friendly retreat. With over nine million dogs now residing in the UK, businesses, which offer a doggy friendly ambience, are seeing a surge in trade, with those providing the perfect pad for pooches proving the most popular.

We sent our canine chums; Bruce and Buddy to check out the very best the area has to offer some wondering woofers and their human companion.

THE WHEELWRIGHT INN

OUR BOYS JOINED REGULARS WILSON THE COCKAPOO AND SASHA THE BLACK LAB FOR A CHEEKY DRINK

The pair kicked off the day with a visit to The Wheelwright Inn in Colyford. The sun was shining so they were able sit outside and enjoy a bowl of water before their adventure began. The idyllic 17th Century traditional thatched pub has a wonderfully extensive menu and has become a friendly hub for the local community. They offer first class food, which is locally sourced wherever possible, along with varied entertainment and activities in their newly refurbished performance area called the Bellows.



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THE HOOK AND PARROT

After a jaunty jog down to the sea front, Bruce and Buddy finally needed somewhere to rest their weary paws and so trotted up into the welcoming lounge of the Hook and Parrot. Duke, Flossy and Candy welcomed our intrepid pair and promised that, as the weather warmed up even further, they would be treated to some special pet's popsicles made with beef or chicken stock. The human seemed quite thirsty, so was allowed a little breather and with a selection of real ales and a terrace with views across the bay, it proved to be the perfect pit stop.

They made firm plans to pop back on another evening to join some 'party animals' for a bit of bop and with the pub offering a weekly karaoke night on a Friday and a Disco every Saturday they would be well served for entertainment.

The Hook and Parrot's human occupants, Sheila, Brad and Rose are slowly revamping and refurbishing the popular sea front pub and with over 60 years of experience between them, know how to make an impression with excellent quality and good value food including burgers, steak pies, liver and bacon and homemade soups.



Photos by Richard Austin

WINSTON'S BAR AND GRILL

To finish off the evening, our barking brothers trotted around the corner to Winston's bar and grill for a quick snack and to have a listen to the open mic night, which is aptly called Howl. Hosted by Elija Wolf of The Gravity Drive, Howl has become a popular fixture for locals and visitors alike who are after an evening of entertainment. Sing a song or recite a poem, if you fancy joining in, all styles, all abilities and all instruments are welcome. The plethora of local talent perform originals and covers in the Howl open mic night, which is on the second Wednesday of the month. The club also offers other live music events including theme nights and karaoke. For more details you can visit the website or facebook page.

Winston's can seat up to 20 together in the main bar/restaurant area, or for larger groups, they have a separate function room, with its own bar and toilets, where you can have your own private party for any occasion. This room can seat up to 100.

After a thoroughly good jig, it was time for our little hobos to plod home feeling tired but happy after their busy doggy day out.



Hook & Parrot

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Winstons

Bar & Restaurant

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and Work Parties catered for

Open Mic Night & Jam Session, second Thursday of every month

Regular Karaoke • Poole Table • Skittle Alley

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Map of Seaton



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ① Tesco | ⑧ Just Flowers Florist | ⑮ Ann Pengelly |
| ② Seaton Museum | ⑨ WithaGee | ⑯ Jurassic Centre |
| ③ Town Hall & The Gateway | ⑩ Genesis Vintage Interiors | ⑰ Winstons |
| ④ Fuchsia Fashions | ⑪ Terrace Arts Café | ⑱ Tramway |
| ⑤ Seaton Print & Design | ⑫ Central at Steve's News | ⑲ Green Dragon Antiques |
| ⑥ East Devon Sports Therapy | ⑬ Sprinkles By The Sea | |
| ⑦ Silk Stocking | ⑭ Seaton Angling & Kayak Centre | |

Seaton Skatepark

For all age groups. The park includes a half pipe, roll ins, fun box, driveway, quarters, rail and a bench

Tramway

Seaton to Colyton. Travelling alongside the River Axe estuary through two nature reserves

Get out on the water in one of our kayaks or have a look at our large range of fishing equipment at Seaton Angling & Kayak Centre

Map based on design by Ian Barradale

www.seatonbay.com

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PETE'S TRAM-TASTIC ADVENTURE!

HAVING lived in Devon for nearly all of my 23 years of life, I am ashamed to say that the amount of times I've taken a trip on Seaton Tramway, could be counted on one hand. So when I was offered the chance to partake in the Driver's Eye Experience, I jumped at the opportunity.

I approached Car 16 with a certain amount of trepidation – I was later told that the tram I would be driving was first built in 1921 and had operated on the streets of Bournemouth for several years – but as the intrepid reporter I am, I hopped aboard and was given a brief lesson in how to drive the tram.

My driving instructor for the day was Seaton Tramway Inspector Gareth Richards who showed me everything I would need to know about how to manoeuvre the vehicle. The controls were pretty simple; there was a gear like lever which similar to a gear stick in positioned to control the speed. There was a hand brake which is wound around to brake the car, and a foot bell which would have to be rung every time a signal was shown on the side of the track.

We had a gentle jaunt down to Colyford Station with Gareth showing me the ropes and although there was a couple of hiccoughs along the way, Gareth seemed to think I was a natural. When we got to Colyford, we

disembarked the tram and Gareth showed me how to switch the line so we could travel back towards Seaton, and after that, once again, we were back on the tracks traveling back to town.

I must admit part of my trepidation of driving the tram was that the controls would be too difficult, I wouldn't be able to enjoy the experience and that it wouldn't be something I could recommend to anyone – however I am happy to report that I was completely in the wrong.

The experience is certainly something I would recommend to visitors and even locals as I thoroughly enjoyed my experience – I'm even trying to wrangle my way back for another go. It may not be fast or flashy but it was an experience I total loved.

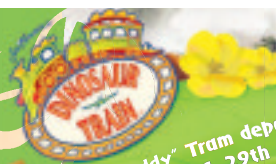
The tramway offers a variety of different tram driving lessons which are available throughout the operating season. The Driver's Eye Experience takes place throughout the summer with sessions taking place on May 30th, June 5th and 19th, August 27th and September 4th, the experience taking place between 10.20am and 4pm.

Other experiences that can be had include a Half Day Tam Driving Lesson, a Full Day lesson and a Tram Driving Break which includes staying the night in a specially selected four-star B&B, with lunch and a two course dinner, as well as a morning or afternoon driving course.

To find out more and to learn how you can try your hand at driving a tram visit www.tram.co.uk/drive-a-tram



Operating a Daily Service until 30th October 2016
All Day Explorer Ticket: Adult £10.00 Child (3-15) £7.50
For further details:- www.tram.co.uk Tel. 01297 20375



Meet "Buddy" Tram departs Seaton at 11am: 1st & 29th May, 24th & 31st July and every Sunday in August, plus Bank Holiday Monday

Tickets: Adults £16.95, Child £12.95
Children Under 2 FREE
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) £46.85
Every Child will receive a Goody Bag and Nature Tracker's Guidebook
Please book to avoid disappointment



AFTER a long wet winter, spring is peeking out from behind the curtains and so it's the perfect time to spruce up your home. Whether you want a brand new look, or just some fresh ideas, Genesis Interiors can transform your space with their unique blend of bespoke furnishings.

At their style oasis in Fore Street, you will find a diverse collection of new, vintage, antique and hand-painted pieces as well as an array of beautiful soft furnishings, gifts and decorative finds. Genesis Vintage Interiors are also proud stockists of the superior chalk paint range known as Autentico and will assist you with designs for your home to suit all of your individual needs.

Authentico chalk and lime paints are all water based, free of solvents and other harmful additives (VOC low) and can

even be used in situations where anti-allergic and anti-bacterial features are paramount.

Genesis can even source the perfect piece of furniture for you if you are struggling to find the time yourself and their experts can paint, distress or leave it natural, so you can achieve the look you have dreamed of.

The local virtuosos at Genesis are on hand to bring innovative ideas to your home or workplace and offer a highly personalised and dedicated service. With projects in east Devon and Dorset, their special knack of juxtaposing vintage with contemporary pieces brings an added dimension to the finished design.

Genesis also offers a full upholstery, commission and design service and make bespoke pieces to order, including headboards.



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ANN PENGELLY STAINED GLASS

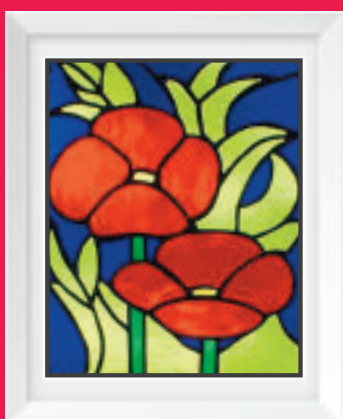
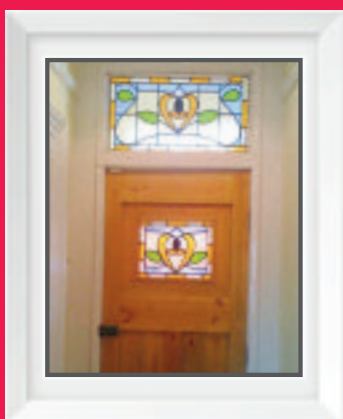
As spring arrives, it is the perfect time to think about how to improve the quality of light coming through your windows and doors. It can be made more colourful and exciting with the addition of some stained glass and local artist Ann Pengelly can offer you her expertise in how to chose just the right piece to compliment your home.

Ann is an experienced stained glass artist and teacher who specialises in leaded windows including glass etching and traditional painted glass panels. She undertakes commissioned pieces of all sizes plus restoration work and is happy to provide free quotes for artwork designs and installations.

An authority on using traditional methods, Ann also teaches beginners to advanced level with classes in leaded, copper foil, fusing and etching techniques. She also rents her kiln and table space and has classes running throughout the year. From her studio 'The Good Shepherd', which is a converted church, complete with original stained glass windows, Ann offers both day and evening classes along with longer courses in the summer.

One of the specialist crafts which Ann practices is the art of etching with the resulting work particularly attractive in doors, windows, panels etc. where subdued light is wanted. It can provide gentle privacy while adding lovely pictures or patterns to a room. Etched designs work well for house or business names and house numbers. Her glass painting skills are also renowned locally and pieces can be made in traditional Victorian style or modern designs, painted in the same fashion as Gothic Church windows and using traditional Oxide paints which when fired in a kiln, makes the paints permanent.

You can visit Ann at her studio/shop which is open Mon, Thurs and Fri 10-4.



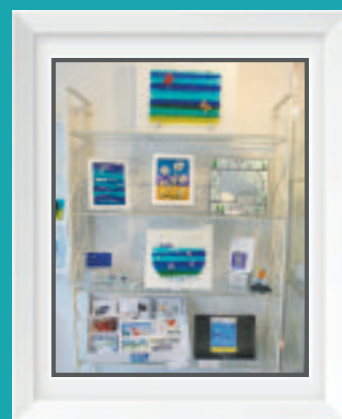
WITHAGEE GLASS ART DECORATIVE, FUN, DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

Spring is on the way and so is a fresh new collection of fused glass artworks at WithaGee Glass Art.

See the glorious colours in the bright sunshine. Find something to brighten up your room, your day, or even your life! All the glass art is hand made and fired on the premises. Come to the studio and meet the artist. See how it's done. Be the first person to see something unique, still warm from the kiln.

A keen kayaker, Gill (with a Gee) gets inspiration from the stunning coastline for her "Seaside" range. Her Jurassic Coasters featuring colourful glass ammonites are popular all year round. Cheerful beach huts and sailboats will brighten a dull day. Request personalised wedding scenes, particular birthdays, your baby's footprints; all handcrafted with care for a very special gift.

So visit the studio/shop at 1 Cross Street, Seaton (near the Town Hall). Spring opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm and 10am-2pm Saturday. Check the website at www.withagee.com or see Facebook at WithaGee Glass Art and 'like' the page to receive updates and news items. Online orders and commissions are also welcome.





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WithaGee Glass Art

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THE GATEWAY

TO THE WORLD OF SHOWBIZ



THE Gateway at Seaton's Town Hall has a spring line-up of events with something for everyone, from animated comedy adventures, to dramatic screenings of opera, ballet and theatre productions and thumping live music.

IN AN alternate timeline where dinosaurs were never wiped out, Arlo (Raymond Ochoa), a young apatosaurus, befriends an orphaned human boy (Jack Bright), who he names Spot in Disney-Pixar's **The Good Dinosaur**. After being separated from his family by a storm, Arlo and Spot must overcome a series of obstacles, including some hungry pterodactyls and some cattle-rustling velociraptors, in order to return home.

The Good Dinosaur will be shown on Tuesday, April 5th, and is rated PG. Doors open 1.30pm.

CERVANTES' eccentric hero **Don Quixote** sets off with his loyal squire Sancho Panza on journey full of adventures in search of his perfect woman. Along the way he meets Kitri, the dazzling daughter of an innkeeper, who he thinks might be his ideal love.

The Bolshoi's panache and excellence are combined in Fadeychev's critically acclaimed staging of this exhilarating performance with Leon Minkus' famous score. Featuring brand new sets and costumes to accompany this colourful and technically challenging production, Don Quixote is quintessential Bolshoi, abounding with life and not to be missed when The Gateway streams this

production on Sunday, April 10th!

Music Leon Minkus, Choreography Alexei Fadeychev (after Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky)

Libretto Marius Petipa (after Miguel de Cervantes), Cast The Bolshoi Principals, Soloists and Corps de Ballet.

Running Time: 3hrs 10 mins approx.

Doors open 3.30pm. Tickets £15 in advance, or £17.50 on the door.

SOPRANO Sondra Radvanovsky takes on the extraordinary challenge of singing all three of Donizetti's Tudor queens in the course of a single season, a rare feat made famous by Beverly Sills – and not attempted on a New York stage since. On April 16th, The Gateway will be streaming the climactic opera of the trilogy, directed by Sir David McVicar, in which she plays Queen Elizabeth I, forced to sign the death warrant of the nobleman she loves, **Roberto Devereux**.

Tenor Matthew Polenzani is Devereux, and mezzo-soprano Elina Garanca and baritone Mariusz Kwiecien complete the principal quartet in the bel canto masterpiece, conducted by Donizetti specialist Maurizio Benini.

Running time 3hrs 46 mins approx.

Doors open 5.30pm. Tickets £15 in advance, or £17.50 on the door.

CLAUDE Monet was an avid horticulturist and arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art, but he was not alone. Great artists like Van Gogh, Bonnard, Sorolla, Sargent, Pissarro and Matisse all saw the garden as a powerful subject for their art. These great artists, along with many other famous names, feature in the innovative and extensive **"Painting the Modern Garden"** exhibition from The Cleveland Museum of Art and The Royal Academy, London, which will be shown on screen at The Gateway on Tuesday, April 19th.

From the exhibition walls to the wonder and beauty of artists' gardens like Giverny and Seebüll, the film takes a magical and widely travelled journey to discover how different contemporaries of Monet built and cultivated modern gardens to explore expressive motifs, abstract colour, decorative design and utopian ideas.

Guided by passionate curators, artists and garden enthusiasts, this remarkable collection of Impressionists, Post-Impressionists, and avant-garde artists of the early twentieth century will reveal the rise of the modern garden in popular culture and the public's enduring fascination with gardens today. Long considered spaces for expressing colour, light and atmosphere, the garden has occupied the creative minds of some of the world's greatest artists. As Monet said, 'Apart from painting and gardening, I'm no good at anything'. For lovers of art or lovers of gardens, this is

an ideal docu-film.

Tickets £10.00 from box office. Doors open 1.30pm.

THE Mods came together in the 90s as a group of professional session musicians 'keeping their hands in' between tours.

Expect classics from the 60s and early 70s: The Who, The Small Faces, The Kinks, Toots and The Maytals, Desmond Dekker, Spencer Davies, Stevie Winwood, Stones, Beatles, Booker T and The MG's, Manfred Mann, Yardbirds, Animals and more.

Back by demand...The Mods return to Seaton with their non stop high energy show. Hit after hit and you simply won't want to sit down.

Doors open 7.30pm. Tickets £13 in advance or £16 on door.

Other shows taking place at The Gateway this spring/summer include:

- Live music by **Cellos4** on Sunday, April 17th
- Live streaming of **Elektra** from the Met Opera on Saturday, April 30th
- A Live stream of the RSC production of **Hamlet** from Stratford-upon-Avon on Wednesday, June 8th

For more details or to book tickets call 01297 625699 or visit the website at www.seatongateway.co.uk. a licensed bar is available at all shows. *Please note any tickets purchased online will incur 50p surcharge.*

THE GATEWAY

To a World of Entertainment

Fore Street, Seaton, Devon EX12 2LD

Visit the website at www.seatongateway.co.uk for other forthcoming events



Box Office: 10am-4pm (Sat 10am-1pm)
Tel: 01297 625699
Email: seatonvoice@btinternet.com



Saturday 2nd April
MADAMA BUTTERFLY (Met Opera)

Tuesday 5th April
THE GOOD DINOSAUR (Children's Film)

Friday 8th April
COMEDY GROVE (Live Entertainment)

Sunday 10TH April
DON QUIXOTE (Bolshoi Ballet)

Tuesday 19th April
MONET TO MATISSE (Arts Alliance Film)

Saturday 23rd April
THE MODS (Live Music)

Sunday 24th April
SHAKESPEARE 400TH ANNIVERSARY (National Theatre Live Streaming)

Saturday 30th April
ELEKTRA (STRAUSS) (Met Opera)

Saturday 21st May
BOHEMIANS (Live Music)

Wednesday 8th June
HAMLET (Royal Shakespeare Company)

Friday 10th June
THE AUDIENCE (National Theatre)

WORLD PREMIERE FOR TESTUDO

TESTUDO Musical Players are an amateur musical society based in Seaton. First formed over fifty years ago they have staged numerous musicals and gained a reputation for quality shows which belie their amateur status!

In recent years they have tackled the 'The Wizard of Oz' which received glowing tributes, the Madness Musical 'Our House' which had a local editor commenting that it was the best amateur musical he had seen in his forty years of reviewing, followed by 'Summer Holiday' another smash hit. Last September audiences were treated to the grand spectacle of 'Sister Act', a difficult score requiring the cast to master complicated harmonies, which they did, and a multitude of costumes, all of which were beautifully created by the costume team, very energetic dance moves executed brilliantly by the cast of thirty, with expert musical accompaniment resulting in a colourful extravaganza which left the packed houses calling for more! So how do they top that?

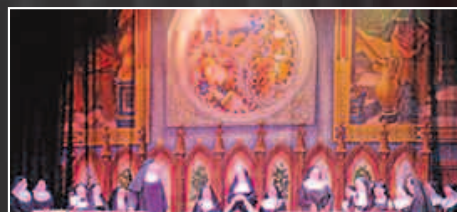
Never being a group to shirk from a challenge they are going to stage the World Premiere of an original musical

penned by their Musical Director Mick Redston (who had a hit with his earlier musical 'The Rude Rector' performed by Testudo in 2011). Mick has been the M.D. for the last six years and has proved to be a real asset, his expertise allowing the group to cut down orchestra sizes

(saving huge costs) without the loss of quality in the performance. He has been working on this new musical 'Midsummer Nightmare' for the last three years

collaborating with his twin brother, who is a professional musician, for the score and musical interpretations. After listening to recordings of the music and a presentation of the story, the Testudo committee were extremely enthused and delighted to be asked to be the first to stage it!

'Midsummer Nightmare' is a moving story of young love. Following the childhood innocence of the lover's first kiss, pressure and imagination send them on a dark journey. Think 'High School Musical'



meets 'Hammer House of Horrors' and the scene is set for this totally new stage musical full of youthful passion and exuberance coupled with mature incompetence, comedy, sadness and fear. The original music is a mix of soft ballads and foot tapping rock songs which include 'Shakespeare Was a Thief', 'The Wall of Tears', 'Anyone Can Dream', 'Rock Bottom' and 'The Library of the Moon' to name but a few. With a cast of over thirty, broadly split between student age and older, with distinctive costumes and effects, plus a lively script, once again this promises to be another show you won't want to miss!

The show is being staged from Wednesday the 14th to Saturday 17th September 2016 and excitement is brewing for the official launch of the show which is on Wednesday 30th March at 7.30pm, after the AGM at 7pm.




TESTUDO
Celebrating Musicals for over 50 Years
at
THE GATEWAY
Seaton Town Hall

are proud to present

A World Premiere of a New Musical

"MIDSUMMER NIGHTMARE"

Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th September 2016

For more information

Telephone: 01297 23202 (Mary - Secretary)

Axe Valley Heritage Association

THE NEED FOR A MUSEUM IN SEATON

PEOPLE could say, "does Seaton need a Museum?", and indeed if this exists is it not met by the Museum in Exeter?

The answer to this is that the Axe Valley has had a long and eventful history, one which is peculiar enough to hold the interest of anyone who has the curiosity to look into it. Residents and visitors to the Axe Valley, who are interested, demand some tangible and visible record of that history; a place where the past and present can be seen. This is now provided by the Museum of the Axe Valley Heritage Association. The County Museum cannot fulfil the needs indicated. Its scope is wider; its outlook is not local but regional, comprising the interests of the whole county. It includes Seaton, but looks beyond the area's special needs and interest.

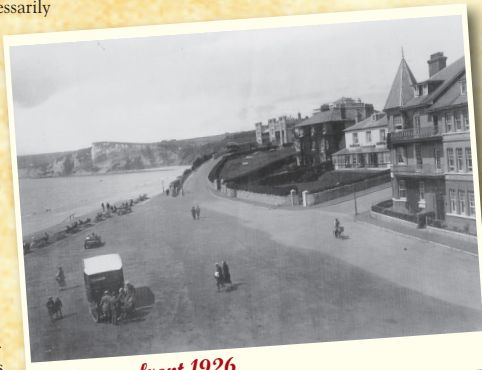
The Axe Valley needs its own Museum to enshrine its peculiar genius, to be a bond to its residents and to charm its visitors. From this it can be seen that our Museum should be one of local history, and the natural history of our locality. Its scope is thus seen to be limited, and this is necessarily so, the limited room, the upkeep of even this limited accommodation, the voluntary effort necessary to maintain the Museum in being, make but moderate aims inevitable. Any larger aim would not only be impracticable under our present resources, but would also submerge and obscure that which is its chief concern, namely to emphasize and preserve the unique character of the Axe Valley itself. To limit the scope of the Museum to local history is to aim at what is at least practicable.

How is the Museum to function? It is convenient to consider in this connection those who most largely use it, as well as those others to whom it should be useful. The ordinary public, for whom at the present our museum almost entirely caters, come for entertainment, and I is there that the exhibits should attract and in attracting might inspire expectancy and carry the visitor a long way towards appreciating and understanding the exhibits.

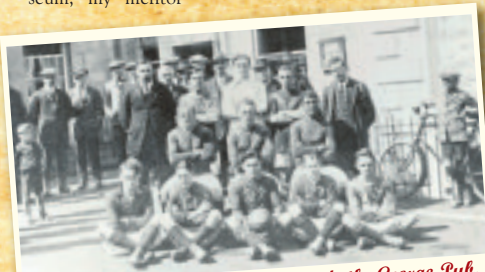
During my early days as the Curator of Lyme Regis Museum, my mentor



Opening of the Town Hall, July 27th 1904.



Seaton seafront 1926.



The first Seaton football team outside the George Pub, 1920 (Sid Balsam, Walt Ware, J Douglas, Cyril Watts, Mr W Agland, Freddy Gibson, Les Newton, Bert Snell, Billy Ackerman, Ralph Rodgers, Frank Miller, Joe Collins, Harry Gibbons).



Children play in the paddling pool, September 5th 1967

was the late Dr Lang, who was the Keeper of Geology at the British Museum. He once informed me that three things were important:

Inadequately labelled exhibits soon cause the visitors to lose interest, whereas good labels, clearly written and well expressed will hold their attention and stimulate their appetite for further information.

A dingy and dusty museum causes depression, and here the need is for correct lighting and cleanliness.

Perhaps the third most important need from the visitor's viewpoint is a pleasing arrangement. The gallery as a whole, and each case, should be so arranged to give the impression of order and taste. The aesthetic pleasure thus added stimulates the visitor's interest in the exhibits themselves.

Clean, bright, informative and tastefully ordered, the exhibits, besides conveying the more interesting aspects of the local history and natural history, might anticipate a visitors more particular needs.

Though visitors come to the Museum at all times and in all weathers, it is on wet days that they come most. Unable to spend their time outside, they turn to the Museum for amusement. Here a child might say: look at this shell, or some object that I found on the beach yesterday, what is it? A well-labelled case illustrating sea-shore biology, showing a reconstruction of a rock-pool, might provide the answer and lead to further interest. This is the sort of thing we should aim at, with exhibits like this to stimulate the young mind.

Collections should be made, stored for reference, and made available to the amateur who wishes to identify material he has collected. This would mean more storage cupboards and drawers, a great lack at the moment. The other main need for investigation is a library of reference books, which is in fact gradually being accumulated, but here again lack of shelf space limits the collection.

We have come a long way since that first committee meeting years ago, and at no time have we remained stagnant. It was on November 28th 1985 that the steering committee was formed, and allotted the what seemed then impossible task, to provide a reception centre for local collections and to offer a focal point for local history studies, or, in other words, to meet the need for a Museum in Seaton.

Over the past years, committee members have come and gone, and sadly many good people have passed away, but the present committee have proved to be the one with the highest standards. Association members should be made aware of what their committee do, and the amount of hard work they undertake for the Museum.



**Ted Gosling,
Curator.**

Axe Valley Heritage Museum

The Town Hall, Seaton EX12 2LD
Phone 01297 24227 | Web www.seatonmuseum.co.uk | Email avha@seatonmuseum

Opening Times

Late May to October

Monday to Friday 10.30am - 12.30pm and 2.15pm - 5.00pm

Admission FREE

The museum covers all aspects of the Axe Valley: history, archaeology, geology, natural history and much more. Other Displays feature Victorian costume, Hontion Lace, tradesmen's tools and equipment and in addition an excellent collection of photographs and documents. Also all you want to know about Roman Seaton, your family tree records, the salt marsh and an interesting fossil display.

Curator and Secretary Ted Gosling 01297 21278
Secretary to the Friends Chris Sargent 01297 21287



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SEATON JURASSIC TO OPEN DOORS FOR FIRST TIME

SEATON JURASSIC

SEATON'S £4million visitor attraction opened its doors to visitors for the first time this Easter.

Seaton Jurassic is based in the East Devon coastal resort of Seaton. It hopes to attract thousands of visitors to experience its unique telling of the story of life and particularly how it has evolved on the Jurassic Coast over the past 250 million years ago.

Mike Ruiter, Seaton Jurassic's manager said: "We are very excited about the prospect of opening. Our staff and local volunteers can't wait to greet the first visitors when we open our doors on Saturday. We think Seaton Jurassic offers a unique experience for visitors. They can certainly expect something very different to what already exists along the Jurassic Coast."

In the past weeks, trial sessions with invited guests have already proven Seaton Jurassic's own take on local natural and geological history to be a hit with people of all ages.

Mike Ruiter said: "We've had people tell us they were amazed by our interactive exhibits, wowed by the detail of them and what we've managed to fit into the space available."

Seaton Jurassic promises to take people on an adventure back across 250 million years to the beginnings of the Mesozoic period. It charts the struggles of local life to adapt and survive in changing and often hostile environments.

Visitors are being promised 'time travel' and the prospect of coming face-to-face with the creatures and characters who have been part of the Jurassic Coast's story.

But there's a more tranquil side to Seaton Jurassic. Visitors can also expect a café with two huge palm trees at their centre along with a menu of good food and drink sourced using local suppliers. A shop and wildlife garden completes the experience.

Seaton Jurassic is owned by East Devon District Council. Councillor Paul Diviani, Leader of East Devon District Council, said that the

centre - at the very heart of the world-renowned Jurassic Coast - marks another step in the regeneration of the town. He said:

"Seaton Jurassic is a top attraction which will bring in thousands of visitors and, in turn, will boost the economy of Seaton and East Devon too."

"We're very proud to be the main funder of such a unique project and we believe it will be a catalyst for the further regeneration of the town itself."

The operator of Seaton Jurassic is Devon Wildlife Trust. The charity's Chief Executive Officer, Harry Barton, said: "Seaton Jurassic is a project that has been more than a decade in the making. Seeing it for real, brand new, dramatic and sparkling in the spring sunshine, is an absolute thrill. And like all great treasures, the best bits are inside! I am just so grateful for all the support from the local community. I really hope they are as proud of the end result as I am."

Entry to Seaton Jurassic costs £8 for adults and £5 for children, with family tickets priced at £18. The entry fee covers return visits for a year.

Seaton Jurassic can be found on the Underfleet, Seaton, EX12 2WD, next to the Seaton Tramway. It has a pay and display car park just 100 metres from its entrance and excellent public transport links with the X53 Jurassic Coast bus stopping at its door! Further details about making a visit to Seaton Jurassic can be found at www.seatonjurassic.org

Seaton Jurassic has received generous support from Devon County Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Coastal Communities Fund, Seaton Town Council, Garfield Weston Foundation, Fine Family Foundation, Seaton Visitor Centre Trust, Blue Marine Foundation and Jurassic Coast Trust.

SEATON JURASSIC

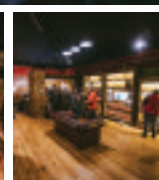
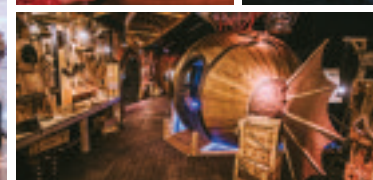
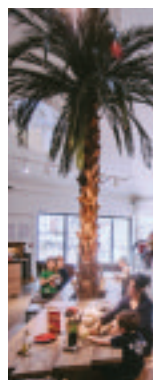
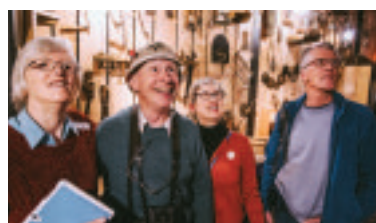
is a new visitor centre, with café and shop, in the centre of Seaton which aims to attract 60,000 visitors a year to Seaton and the surrounding areas

More Information

- The whole project cost £4.4m and has been funded by East Devon District Council, Devon County Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Coastal Communities Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Fine Family Foundation, the Blue Marine Foundation, Jurassic Coast Trust as well as community fundraising effort and a range of other supporters (see list of funders and supporters below).
- Seaton Jurassic explores the area's marine and geological heritage through highly engaging and interactive exhibits.
- A programme of events, volunteering and learning activities will attract visitors and engage people all year round.

Visit www.seatonjurassic.org to learn more about this exciting community-led centre

"Seaton Jurassic is a top attraction which will bring in thousands of visitors and, in turn, will boost the economy of Seaton and East Devon too"



SEATON ANGLING & KAYAK CENTRE

SEATON Angling Centre has everything you need for both sea and freshwater fishing. Chris Chappell, who opened the centre nine years ago, prides himself on stocking a comprehensive range of equipment and fresh live bait.

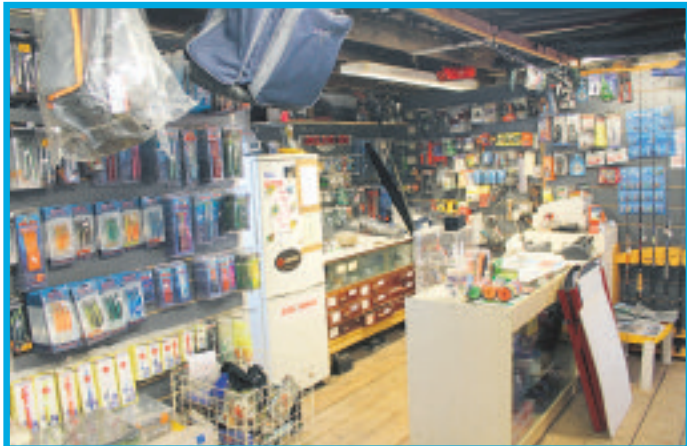
The shop offers a great selection of fishing gear and clothing, with new stock arriving weekly. The shop also has a good selection of paddleboards.

Seaton Angling Centre stocks a wide range of rods and reels including products by Greys, Daiwa Grauvells,

Okuma, Penn and Snowbee as well as tackle and bait including fresh live dug rag, lug, peelers and sandeels alongside a variety of frozen baits.

Chris' newly expanded range of fishing kayaks, starting at £250, includes an 8ft and 12ft touring model. All the kayaks come equipped with oars and seats.

One of the new models available is the Winner Xplorer – a hybrid fishing kayak and tourer. It glides beautifully through the water and steers with pinpoint accuracy.



The kayaks come with a textured anti-slip deck and solid stainless steel fasteners. The hull is made from tough roto-molded LDPE, whilst the seating area is very spacious. There's also a great choice of colours to choose from.

Other features include: two hatches, four fixed rod holders with covers, a massive rear storage area, a fully adjustable pro rod holder, a comfortable seat with solid brass fittings, a quality two-piece aluminium pro paddle with adjustable angle, two extra large hatches (one with integral bucket lining; one open to the hull interior), a paddle holder strap, four drainage

holes (two in the seating area; two in the luggage area), four scupper plugs, an elastic storage net, a recessed drain plug, a molded hand hold, an elastic storage net, an anchor store recess and a bottle holder.

Chris also has a new selection of wetsuits in stock with adult sizes from £35.99 and children's from £11.99.

Adults and kids' buoyancy aids are also available, along with lifejackets.

For more information visit www.seatonanglingcentre.co.uk or www.seatonkayakcentre.co.uk

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AXMOUTH & SEATON HARBOURS

through the ages



In June 1954 a sixty-eight-year-old Axmouth resident relying on the word of an English King who died nearly 900 years ago challenged the legality of the Magna Carta... and won.

Miss Maud Stephens of Stedcombe Manor challenged the most famous charter in English history, that says any Englishman can fish in tidal waters, by alleging that four Seaton fishermen had trespassed on her land to fish there – her land included the mouth of the estuary.

Seaton Fishermen and Axmouth Harbour have had a rather rocky relationship in the past, as in 1939 it was proved and accepted that the fishery was given to Stedcombe

Manor by King Henry I in 1100. The right that Stedcombe would be the entity engaged in raising or harvesting fish 115 years before the magna carta was signed.

In Miss Stephens 1954 action, it was not in dispute that she was the owner of the manor and therefore the fishery, and it had been agreed in 1939 that the limits of the fishery were determined by the bounds of the manor of Axmouth, not the family that lived there. In 1954 Miss Stephens said: "My family took the manor 60 years ago but the fishing rights are not with any particular family. They are vested in the manor itself. As long as I am here I intend to look after the river. I don't fish myself, but a lot of people pay to fish and get quite good salmon."

A few more Interesting facts about Axmouth and Seaton Harbours.

- Axmouth and Seaton Harbours proved to be significant ports in Roman times. A branch of the Fosse Way, the 230-mile road that linked Exeter to Lincoln, ended at Axmouth, which at the time was a Roman Station called Uxellis, while stone mined at Beer Stone Quarries was exported by sea from the harbour at Seaton.
- In 937AD the Danes sailed up the Axe Estuary and landed an army near what is now Honey Ditches and marched towards Axminster. King Athelston defeated the Danes at the famous battle of Brunenburgh, where several Saxon earls were killed and brought back and buried at Axminster Parish Church.
- In the 14th century Seaton sent ships to fight in the wars against Scotland and France, including two ships with 25 mariners aboard were supplied for Edward III attack on Calais in 1346. At this time Ship-building was an important trade in Seaton and Axmouth.



Photo by Richard Austin

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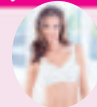
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"I have run in a few races but have never been in a race that manages to create physical challenge whilst taking a sideways glance at running, allowing all involved to emerge with a crooked grin on their face!" - A Grizzly runner.

MORE than one thousand eight hundred runners from all over the country, and many parts of the world, converged on Seaton on Sunday, March 13th for the annual Grizzly, organised by Axe Valley Runners. For the second year running, Totnes-based Ceri Rees crossed the finish line first, taking just two hours, 17 minutes and 16 seconds to complete the gruelling 19.5 mile course.

Attracting runners from across the UK and Europe, the slippery multi terrain run, featuring uphill routes, uneven beach terrain and slippery slimy bogs full of mud don't disappoint, with everyone embracing the challenge and pushing through the conditions to proudly reach the finish line.

For the top few runners it is a very challenging race, but for the majority it is an arduous test akin to a journey of self-discovery, combining deep ecology, spiritualism, one-ness philosophy and multi-terrain running.

Since 1997 the Grizzly, which now has cult status in the athletics calendar, has raised more than £320,000 for good causes, with the total of the 2016 race, the 'Grin & Bear It', yet to be calculated.

Somewhere en route there is a superbly constructed Grizzly Memorial provided by the

kindred spirit of the Dungbeans. Runners can tie a ribbon, or place an object as they pass through, and have a shared moment of reflection on whom or what is really dear to their hearts – this can be a truly emotional experience.

Alongside the run, there is always a true feeling of community as various local groups and organisations pledged their support to help on the day.

For more details and updates on The Grizzly, visit axevalleyrunners.org.uk/grizzly

AXE VALLEY RUNNERS

Axe Valley Runners main club nights are Mondays from 6.30pm at Seaton Scout Hut in Scalwell Lane.

The runners hold a 3.5-mile handicap race (normally) on the first Monday in each month, and also hold occasional special events such as racing a tram from Seaton to Colyton and the infamous Mars Bar relays.

AVR cater for a wide range of ages, from their very active juniors (11-16), up to some members being in seventies (and no less active!).

For more information on the Axe Valley Runners visit the website at www.axevalleyrunners.org.uk



GRIZZLY 2016



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Home of *Outdoor Adventure*

Seaton is a four-season adventure hub with an astonishing wealth of pursuits and terrain for outdoor-active people.

With its superb location on the East Devon Jurassic Coast, Seaton offers a wealth of outdoor activities.

A new orienteering trail, launched by the Seaton Town Development Team and the Countryside Team, runs from the Tourist Information Centre (located inside Seaton Jurassic) through the town with 4 routes (Brontosaurus, Velociraptor, Stegosaurus and T-Rex) of varying length. Great for families and beginners, the trail also runs around

the Seaton Wetlands exploring beautiful scenery and boardwalks. Download your free maps at www.seatondevon.org/orienteering.

Cyclists, walkers and runners have plenty of opportunity to enjoy the numerous trails running along the coast. From Cliff Field Gardens, walkers can access the South West Coastal Path www.southwestcoastpath.com. Along it, whether you take a short walk or stride out on the cliff tops, you'll find outstanding views, picturesque harbours, tranquil estuaries and secret coves.

Seaton is a natural playground for water sports fans including kayakers, canoeists, stand-up pad-

dle boarders, swimmers, anglers and sailing enthusiasts. Its broad beach front stretches between the mouth of the River Axe and the dramatic cliffs of Beer Head. Try Stand up Paddle Boarding or kayaking from the beach front at Fisherman's Gap (see www.sbwatersports.co.uk).

An outdoor gym, bowling green and tennis courts can be found at Seaford Gardens. And golfers enjoy an excellent 18-hole course which overlooks the town from the Axmouth cliffs.

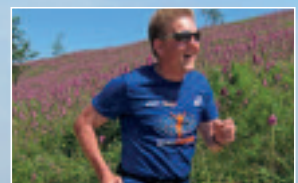
See www.seatondevon.org/sport-seaton/ for more information on the many other sports and outdoor activities available.



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The four-season adventure hub with an astonishing amount for outdoor-active people

- Enjoy Water sports on our broad beach or the River Axe
- Discover numerous trails running along the coast
- Play at the tennis courts, outdoor gym, adventure golf
- Try the New Orienteering trail
www.seatondevon.org/orienteering
- Hike out on the South West Coast Path
www.southwestcoastpath.com
- Excellent 18-hole course



www.seatondevon.org

HAVE A MERRY SPRING TIME WITH Mendip Mule Motorbus

The Mendip Mule Motorbus, Somerset's new specialist open top bus operator, was launched last year. From a background in tourist transport dating back to the 70s, and previous experience in operating open top buses in the 90s, a seed sown in April 2013 grew into the company's launch in July 2015 under the ownership of Derek Gawn.

The company offers open top tours during the summer season in Somerset, Devon and Dorset, plus operations at special events in the South West region and is available for private hire.

Buses include TDL 564K, the Mendip Mule itself – a very rare, Bristol-built 1971 single decker, England's only single deck open topper in service – and beautifully redecorated for her new Mendip-based role; and the BJG 674V, Mendip Mule's big sister, the classic, Bristol-built 1980 double deck open topper – offering stunning views from the top deck and a lower deck newly upholstered in soft trim moquette.

Both buses are fitted with a PA system, so passengers can enjoy commentary in the stunning local scenery during their tour.

The buses will be operating out of Colyton for nine weeks during the summer months. They will be offering the Devon Donkey tour operating on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, taking in the sights of Seaton, Lyme Regis, Sidmouth and the Donkey Sanctuary, and Beer and Pecorama; as well as the Dorset Donkey on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, which ventures further east to see Bridport, West Bay and attractions in Abbotsbury.

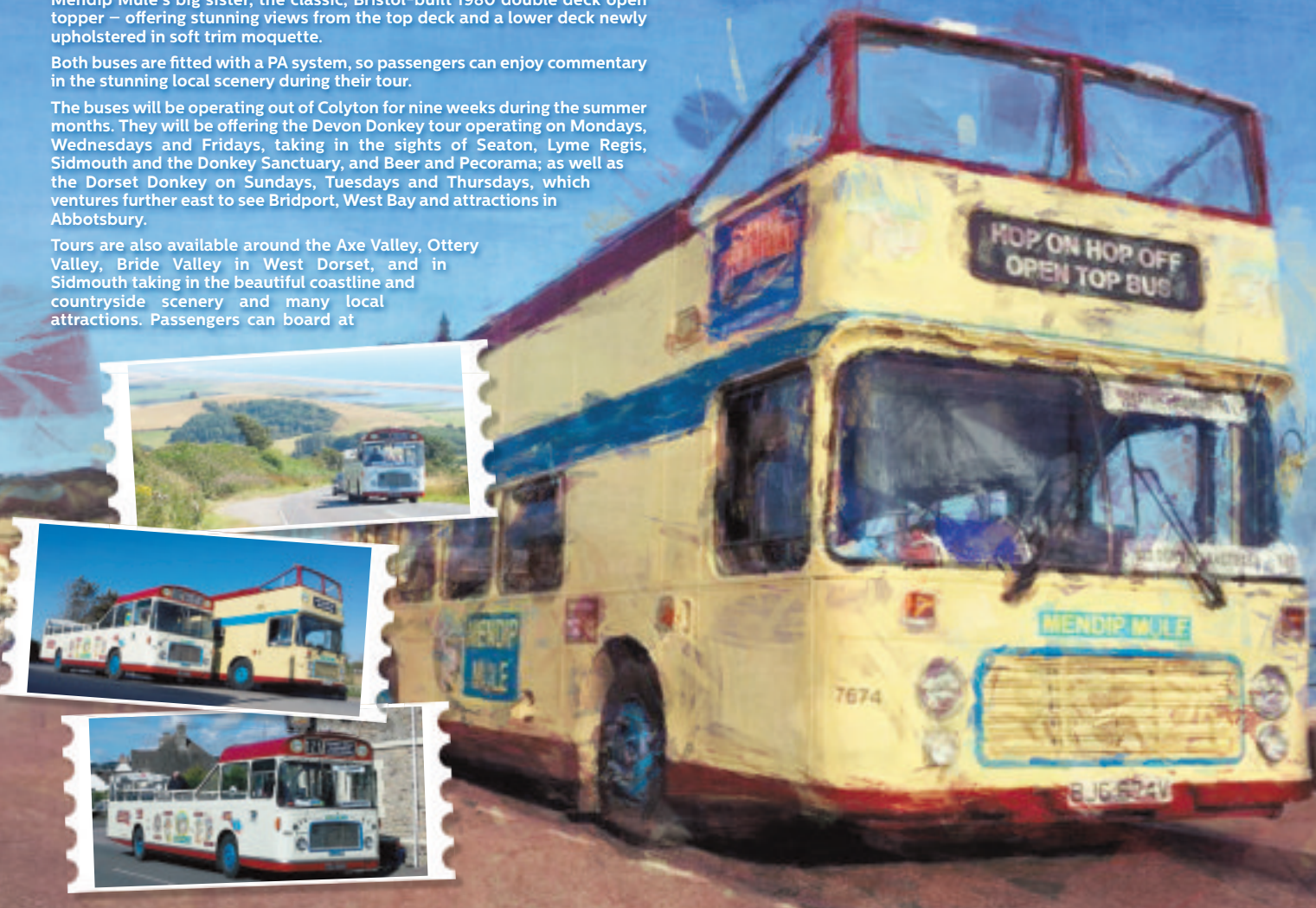
Tours are also available around the Axe Valley, Ottery Valley, Bride Valley in West Dorset, and in Sidmouth taking in the beautiful coastline and countryside scenery and many local attractions. Passengers can board at

any point and travel to a particular destination or stay on board all day for the full tour.

This year, the Mendip Mule buses are working in close operation with Seaton Tramway, stopping off at the tram stations and carrying the attraction's livery. "The tramway will also be handling online discounted combined tram/bus tour bookings at www.tram.co.uk

Also new for this season, while they are in the Seaton area the buses will be trialing themed evening tours.

For further details and timetables, visit the Mendip Mule Motorbus website at www.mendipmulemotorbus.co.uk/home.html



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ENGLAND'S ONLY OPERATING SINGLE DECK OPEN TOP BUS

THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

“Whatever we do, donkeys come first, second and third”

SIDMOUTH'S Donkey Sanctuary has so much to offer residents and tourists of East Devon – and they're dying to show you.

The world famous charity's motto is: 'Whatever we do, donkeys come first, second and third' and they mean it. Set in the beautiful rolling countryside, visitors are welcome to take the family on a beautiful walk through amazing scenery, explore the maze and hike down to the secret cove to enjoy the beach.

However, for those that want a more hands on experience, visit the barn and meet the friendly donkeys or sign up for the Experience Days where visitors are able to groom, feed and take part in mucking out the donkeys. The site also houses a video room, nature centre and family picnic areas. Visitors can also browse a unique range of donkey gifts and mementoes in the dedicated donkey shop on site.

Since Dr Elisabeth Svendsen, MBE, founded The Donkey Sanctuary in 1969, over 16,500 donkeys and mules have found sanctuary for life in the UK and Europe and there are currently 6,200 animals in the charity's care.

The charity was started with the intention of transforming the lives of donkeys, mules

and people worldwide through greater understanding, collaboration and support, and by promoting lasting, mutually life-enhancing relationships. There are over 50 million donkeys and mules in the world today and many need care and protection from a lifetime of suffering and neglect.

All of the charity's operations are carried out from Sidmouth, whether that be helping donkeys in Romania or building wells in Ethiopia, the central hub of the charity is in Sidmouth, something the staff at the sanctuary are very proud of.

The Donkey Sanctuary is dog and child friendly, so if you're looking for a holiday or a family day out with a difference, and a chance to have close contact with friendly donkeys in a glorious setting, visit the Donkey Sanctuary.



THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

**DAILY ACTIVITIES.
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FREE ENTRY.**

01395 578222 www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk



Beautiful Beer cove

The perfect place for Mackerel fishing

AS THE weather warms up, the beautiful cove in Beer will once again become a hive of activity. The fearless little fishing vessels will take to the water to transport locals and visitors alike to the farthest reaches of our coastline in the hope that they will return with a copious catch of succulent fresh fish to feast on. There's nothing quite like the sun on your face and the calming movement of the sea to put you in a mellow mood and with the promise of a fish supper at the end of the expedition, a deep sea fishing trip is the perfect way to while away a spring day.

Mackerel are a very important fish to anglers both for sport and as bait. There has been a resurgence in the popularity of the fish as a main dish in many fine dining establish-

ment with the firm, oil rich-flesh, providing the basis of an abundance of delicious recipes. For most however, fresh from the sea and pan-fried or barbequed gives the greatest gastronomic outcome and devouring the iridescent silver and blue striped skin caught on your own line can give you that added sense of satisfaction.

The agile fish are not as easy to catch as you may think however as the predatory mackerel are the fastest swimming fish in UK waters, able to swim around fifty metres in ten seconds. Once mackerel arrive for the summer, they move in vast shoals, hunting small fish or sand eels. A large shoal of mackerel can force smaller fish such as sand eel, herring and sprats to the surface of the sea making it look as if sections of the sea are boiling.

Even a small mackerel puts up a great fight once hooked, and it takes a skilled fisherman to find the optimum location to land the biggest catch and almost guarantee you will end the day with a delectable delight on your plate.

To find a local expert to guide you on a mackerel fishing trip around the bay, you can pop down to the beach and speak to one of the experienced skippers.

For a fresh spring taste alternative, you can rub the filleted mackerel on both sides with the paprika and a little salt. Mix orange segments with the shallot, olives, and parsley.

Ingredients

- 2 x 300g/10oz mackerel
- Mackerel is a firm-fleshed, torpedo-shaped sea fish. Whole mackerel weigh in around 10-12oz (filleted and skin on or 4 x 75g/3oz mackerel fillets, skin on)
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- ½ tsp smoked paprika
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small orange, grated zest and juice
- 1-2 tsp harissa paste (to taste, as brands vary)
- 50g pine nut, toasted small bunch coriander, very roughly chopped

Method

- Roll the mackerel fillets in the flour sifted with smoked paprika and seasoning. Shake off excess flour and set the fish aside in a single layer.
- Put 1 tbsp of the olive oil, the orange zest and juice and the harissa paste into a small bowl, and whisk together. Heat a frying pan with remaining olive oil until very hot. Fry the fish fillets for 5 mins, first on the skin side, then on the flesh side.
- When the fish is nearly cooked – it should look firm – pour over the orange and harissa glaze, bring to the boil and allow the liquid to bubble until sticky. Sprinkle over the pine nuts and coriander.

Photos by Richard Austin

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BEER QUARRY CAVES

A fascinating labyrinth of centuries-old caverns

ONE of the greatest examples of Britain's industrial genius, a history lesson for us all, is tucked away in the hills just one mile beyond Beer.

For here it was where the hardest of Devon men quarried the stone that helped to make England's finest buildings.

The Tower Of London, Windsor Castle, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, London Bridge, Winchester Cathedral, Exeter Cathedral, Rochester Castle, Hampton Court and some 21 other cathedrals, including Christ Church in St Louis, Missouri, were built using Beer Stone.

No wonder that Sir Tim Smit, director of The Eden Project, calls the caves made by the quarrying 'an inspirational and moving place, inspiring awe'.

The quarry caves are a must-see for any visitor to the Axe Valley, for they are a glorious, wonder-making testament to the best of our nation; our spirit, our grit and our cleverness.

The Romans, famous for doing everything first, started

the quarrying here 2,000 years ago after they discovered that Beer Stone's remarkable qualities – it is a limestone of such fine grain that it is soft to easily saw and carve, but then hardens when exposed to the air – were ideal for building their villas hereabouts. The remains of one such villa, Honeyditches, can still be seen at Seaton.

After the Romans, the Saxons moved in to hack at the stone with iron axes. But it was not until Medieval times that Beer truly became Britain's building merchant. Then, the industry here became fevered as the best masons demanded Beer Stone for carving for cathedrals and churches throughout the realm.

It is sobering and, as Sir Tim noted, moving, to reflect on the dexterity of muscle and mind that compounded to quarry the stone. The quarrymen worked by candlelight as they dug further and further into the cliffs, pick-axing and sawing massive slabs of heavy stone which were lifted by hand-operated cranes onto horse-drawn wagons which were driven to barges on Beer beach to be sailed to up the Channel and then down the Thames.

And so it continued for hundreds and hundreds of years until 1920 when the quarrying stopped. On the guided tours of Beer Quarry Caves you can still see the ancient tool mark in the walls, close to the magnificent vaulted roofs and pillars.

You'll see other enchanting things too – the place where after the Reformation persecuted Catholics made a secret church in which to worship and the parts of the caves where the infamous smuggler Jack Rattenbury would hide his contraband barrels of brandy and rum out of the eye of the Excisemen.

And then there's the bats. Six species have moved in to hibernate here in the winter, including the rare Bechstein's Bat, which won the caves the distinction of a site of Special Scientific Interest.

But it is the quarry caves' distinction as a site of special industrial interest which marks it out most as a monument to the glory that man can make. Go, you'll come away amazed and proud.

www.beerquarrycaves.co.uk



LYME BAY WINERY

AWARD-WINNING CIDERS, WINES & MEADS

LYME BAY WINERY is an award-winning, dedicated West Country company, passionate about producing delicious English Wines, Country Wines, ciders, meads and liqueurs from our home in Devon's beautiful Axe Valley.

The Devon-made products have something for every occasion and to suit every taste, from the superb quality English wines, to cider for sharing around the campfire, traditional meads, and luxurious and warming liqueurs.

In 2008 Lyme Bay Winery embarked on an adventure born from passion, ambition and a dream: to make outstanding English Wines

embodying Lyme Bay Winery's fruit-driven, award-winning ethos. The search for the right land for their vineyards took a while, but in 2010 they planted 26,000 vines and with hard work were rewarded with an excellent first harvest in Autumn 2014.

If you'd like to sample the delicious products then pop into the Winery Shop and have a look at the exceptional West Country wares. Situated within the Winery, the shop offers a complete range of products plus a wide selection of locally produced food and drinks.



Lyme Bay Winery also act as proud distributors of wonderful local products such as ales from the Otter Brewery and the Branscombe Vale Brewery, cider brandy from Somerset Cider Brandy Company, and fruit ciders from Annings Fruit Ciders.



LYME BAY WINERY SHOP

AWARD - WINNING CIDERS, WINES & MEADS - 2 MILES NORTH OF COLYTON.



THE YEAR AHEAD IN COLYTON

There's no shortage of things to do this spring and summer in Colyton, so don't forget to put these special dates in your diary:

Holyford Woods Bluebell Day

April 30th – May 1st

An annual celebration set in beautiful ancient woodlands just outside of Colyton, which are abundant with bluebells at this time of year. It is one of the oldest, natural woods in existence in the UK, and is in fact England's 1000th Local Nature Reserve. For full details visit www.holyfordwoods.org.uk

Colyton Vintage Tractor Run

May 30th, Bank Holiday

This annual event is a firm favourite in the calendars of Colyton residents and visitors alike. Starting at 10am from the Peace Memorial Playing Field, hundreds of vintage tractors will set off for their charity run through the local countryside. Come along and join the amazing gathering of familiar old types and the more unusual tractors. Entrance is free and refreshments available.

Colyton Heraldic Flags

June 1st – September 4th

A new feature for this year organised by the Promote Colyton Group, this will see the town decorated with more than 20 colourful, hand-painted heraldic flags depicting crests of Colyton families who played an important role in the town's history.

Heraldic Market

June 1st

Celebrating the 470th anniversary of the Colyton Chamber of Feoffees, the market will be held in Colyton Town Hall, opened by the town crier at 10.30am. As well as food and craft stalls, there will be a display of costumes and historic artefacts to browse.

The Mighty Bed Race

June 18th

Another new edition to this year's calendar, this is set to be a true spectacle, as over 20 teams in fancy dress race around the town stopping at local pubs en route. This is a charity fund raiser organised by the Colyton-based Nunsford Nutters Carnival Group, well-known throughout East Devon for their comic carnival entries, in aid of Hospice Care. Events will be held from 1pm to 5pm in Market Place, Colyton. Contact the Nunsford Nutters on 01297 552151 for further details.

Colyton Carnival Week

September 4th – 11th

The highlight of the year, Colyton Carnival Week promises a fun-packed programme of events for all the family, culminating in the illuminated grand procession on Saturday, September 10th which will see imaginative walking entries and stunning floats wind their way around the town's narrow streets.

Colyford Goose Fayre

September 24th

Revived in 1980, this ancient event was traditionally held to celebrate Michaelmas. Colyford residents throw themselves into the spirit of the event each year, dressing in medieval costume and parading through the streets before enjoying an afternoon of traditional crafts, entertainment and refreshment.





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COLYTON
HERITAGE CENTRE

info@colytonheritagecentre.org www.colytonheritagecentre.org

Welcome to Devon's most rebellious town

LYING within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Colyton is a historic medieval town set in the Axe Valley, whose fortunes were based on the rich wool trade of the 14th and 15th centuries.

Nicknamed the most rebellious town in Devon for its part played in the Monmouth Rebellion in 1685, which was celebrated last year with a special day on re-enactments, Colyton now takes on a much more peaceful and atmosphere, and can provide a tranquil break from the busy seaside in summer.

Its circular street arrangement is typically Saxon and along its winding streets many interesting buildings dating back to these times can be seen.

At the heart of the town is Market Place and St Andrew's Church, which dates back a thousand years to Norman times. The stunning West Window, thought to be the largest in any English parish church, is the jewel in its crown, and the unusual, hexagonal lantern tower, added in the 15th century, is thought to be based on the Bruges Cloth Hall Tower.

There is an interesting range of individual shops, owned and run by local people who are happy to welcome you. Traditional inns and tea shops offer a wide variety of refreshment and food.

The Colyton Heritage Centre is located in the historic, grade II listed Merchant's House, in Market Place, gifted the local history society in 2013. This house was once the home of a wealthy cloth merchant and has many fine features including an elegant decorative ceiling, Tudor fireplace and medieval wall mural.

During the season there are exhibitions of local interest, a gift shop, and a Family History Service Point with local experts to help you with research.

Part of the scenic walking route, the East Devon Way, passes through Colyton as it follows the lovely Coly River valley towards Farway. At Chantry Bridge, take a stroll through the meadows by the side of the river where an abundance of bluebells, orchids and aromatic wild garlic grow. Kingfishers can often be spotted and other inhabitants of the riverbanks.

The last remaining oak bark tannery in England sits on the banks of the Coly River by Chantry Bridge in Colyton.

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HERALDIC MARKET
Wednesday 1st June 2016
10am - 4pm at Colyton Town Hall
Food and Craft Stalls.
Launch of Heraldic Banners
display around Colyton.



Photos by Richard Austin



The Garden Shop & Cafe

A real treasure in Colyton



THE Garden Shop in Colyton has undergone a complete transformation this winter with a brand new plant area built outside. In the spirit of sustainability and recycling we chose to build out of wooden pallets and timber from the Duchy of Cornwall creating a totally unique display. It was then painted in a range of bright colours. The result is a bright and cheerful area to display our plants, and also for our café customers to enjoy their refreshments among the flowers. We are truly 'an oasis of calm in a sea of chaos'!

With plenty of free parking The Garden Shop offers a complete destination shopping experience. Apart from all the wonderful (and locally sourced) flowers, shrubs, bedding and roses, we have a gift area, greeting cards, garden tools, seeds,

bird food and sundries, pest control (organic and chemical), fertilisers, composts, a great range of Italian pots, and our Café. The Café serves some of the best coffee in the area, complemented with breakfasts, light lunches, snacks, and our fabulous cakes! Our friendly staff look forward to welcoming you, and are always ready to offer help or advice. Please ask for assistance if required.

During the summer we shall be arranging more of our popular musical events, the first of which takes place on June 11th to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. We shall be having a tea party and live music from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Watch out in the local press for later dates through the summer months.



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Eating Out...

The Kingfisher Inn

COLYTON



THE greedy march of chain pubs with their soul-less interiors, cheap beer, loud customers and microwave meals has done more to ruin the old English inn than Hitler's Luftwaffe achieved, but thankfully a few proper old taverns still exist – and The Kingfisher in Colyton is among the best of them.

The visitor looking for an unspoilt, traditional Devon pub where the hospitality is hearty need look no further than this 16th Century inn, easily found in the centre of the town. It's exactly like an old pub should be – traditional roasts on Sundays, meat raffles in the bar every Saturday, CAMRA-rated honest local ales, a beautiful beer garden and a rare place where you can still play skittles, darts and crib.

The Kingfisher is also the friendly home to great British pub grub – fish and chips that are said to be the best in the area, steak and kidney pie, chicken and leek pie, whitebait, stuffed mushrooms,

baked salmon, sirloin steak, scampi, egg and chips and raspberry and apple pie are among the choices that are all freshly-homemade and come in large portions.

It is a popular spot with walkers and rave reviews of the welcome at The Kingfisher have come from as far as California. Typical is the thumbs-up from a recent visitor from Birmingham, who wrote: "It's been a long time since we enjoyed a simple, well-cooked pub meal and this pub does the job.

"We had scampi, chips, peas and salad and ham, egg, chips and peas and our meals were thoroughly enjoyable. The food was well presented – no attempts to be a gastropub or anything fancy, just good, wholesome pub grub. We cleared our plates and we just wish that this pub was our local! We will definitely be back."

A great find, a little Devon treasure and highly-recommended by all its patrons.





The Kingfisher Inn

FREE HOUSE 01297 552476

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Good value range of pub classics • Real Ales • Beer Garden

The Kingfisher, Dolphin Street, Colyton, Devon EX24 6NA







Sprinkles



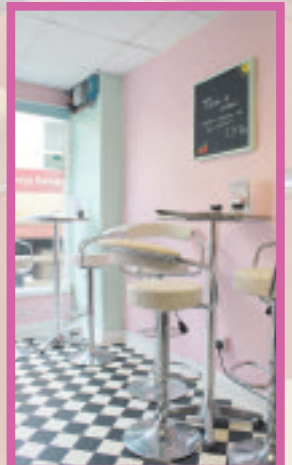
Delicious desserts, mouth-watering cakes and scrumptious waffles are on the menu at the delightful Sprinkles by the Sea nestled in the heart of Fore Street. The thriving little ice-cream parlour opened in December 2015 and has become a popular pit stop ever since, with many making a weekly visit to the foodie oasis to tantalise their taste buds.

You can choose to stay and enjoy your goodies within the sparkling surroundings, or take your treat away with you and revel in the looks of envy as you stroll to the beach with one of the sundaes or Knickerbocker glories. You can choose from Seaton mess, raspberry and cream, simply chocolate or banana and toffee with all the combinations available to take away.

Why not stop in for one of the decadent crepes or delectable waffles, which include toppings of your choice, a scoop of ice cream, a scoop of cream and a portion of fruit?

There are also smoothies and candyfloss to satisfy your sweet tooth or you can unwind with a classic Devon cream tea.

With the summer just around the corner, ice cream is something many of us just can't resist so pop into Sprinkles by the Sea where you can select from a plethora of exciting flavours and taste combinations, all served with a smile.



Sprinkles

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Seaton EX12 2AD

THE Bellows at The Wheelwright Inn, Colyford now boasts a thriving new entertainment venue, which is bringing original live music and theatre to the rural East Devon village and its surrounding community. After taking over the pub in December 2014, tenants Kirstin Reynolds and Mark Newton have turned their function room from a neglected 'storage space' into a bespoke performance venue which offers regular residencies as well as giving fans the opportunity to see world famous artists.

This hidden gem has been newly branded 'The Bellows' and is an exquisitely intimate venue within The Wheelwright Inn, which has fast gained a reputation for originality and quality, and is proving to be the ideal setting for showcasing their impressive, programme of events.

In February, Grammy award winning country music legend Larry Gatlin of The Gatlin Brothers wowed a sold out audience. Along with local musicians and resident performers, Alan West, Steve Black and Adam Sweet, Larry led an evening of spellbindingly intimate live music. The four musicians shared songs and stories from the small stage with the utmost proficiency.

Alan told us: "Ever since my childhood, I have been a massive fan of The Gatlin Brothers' music. When the opportunity arose for us to open for Larry Gatlin and watch him play his songs at The Bellows that was exciting. To sit and share songs with him, in a round, for 90 mins, was something I had never



considered. It was an honour, a privilege and an absolute pleasure for so many reasons and better yet, it would appear we might get to do it again!!"

Local B&Bs found themselves fully booked with Gatlin fans flocking from all around the UK to see this exclusive show - his only solo performance on his recent UK tour. The appearance of this Grammy winning superstar certainly appears to have set the bar for the level of performers that can be found here in the coming months.

Gatlin told us of the evening: "Tonight, we had a little magic on this stage! The restaurant here is incredible, the little music venue here is one of the warmest most intimate places I've sung my songs in my life. If you get the

chance you should come here, you can eat, drink and be merry and I give it my five star recommendation."

The venue has recently introduced a regular season of plays, which take place once a month. The plays are written and directed by Steve Black and produced by Axminster based theatre group The 'IE Theatre'

Steve Black told us: "The IE Theatre group has always striven to perform plays based on real life situations and relationships, with comedic observation and a twist! Intimacy between the cast and the audience is a vital ingredient - a sense of a fly on the wall if you like and The Bellows is a perfect venue in which to achieve this. Happy days!"

Kirstin told us "We are extremely grateful for the support that our shows are gaining from the local community. So far we have welcomed touring acts from around the UK, the USA and Canada, and we hope that continued support will enable us to sustain a varied programme of events in The Bellows here at The Wheelwright Inn."

RESIDENT local acts Alan West & Steve Black (Country/Americana) perform in The Bellows on the evenings of the first and third Thursday every month and Adam Sweet (Acoustic Blues) on the last Thursday of every month. The regular residencies are free entry, with a cover charge for touring acts & theatre.

Amongst the performers appearing at the venue over the coming months are:

Robert Vincent (+ Support from Peter Brunt-nell) - Bob Harris' AMA Emerging Artist of the year 2016 - Saturday, April 30th, 8.30pm

Sarah Macdougall - Two time Western Canadian Music Award Winner - Wednesday, May 18th, 8.30pm

Ags Connolly - Oxford based UK Country "One to watch" - The Guardian - Friday, June 10th, 8.30pm

Blue Bishops - Hard hitting original Rock, Blues and Rhythm and Blues band. In the words of Radio 2's Paul Jones, 'Superb!' - Friday, July 1st, 8.30pm

Amanda Rheäume & Band - Canadian Folk Music Award winner and Juno Award nominee - Friday, July 29th, 8.30pm

Please note all dates are correct at time of print, please see www.wheelwrightinn.com for updates.

The Wheelwright Inn is open every day, serving delicious home cooked food from 12-2.30 and 5.30 - 9. Booking is advisable for shows and pre show dining, call 01297 552585.



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THE award-winning Terrace Arts Café, restaurant, bar, and guesthouse offers the very best. Why not pop in and experience for yourself the welcoming ambience that is honest and friendly, offering a unique choice of vegetarian, vegan and gluten free meals. Home made, organic and locally sourced wherever practicable and guaranteed quality is the thread that links all aspects together.

The Terrace's self-catering holiday lets are all en suite, seafront properties with spectacular views of the world heritage Jurassic coast. The holiday lets offer TV, WiFi, tea and coffee, and linen & towels are provided. The lets are always immaculately clean, creating a relaxing atmosphere. The lets are in a central location for sea, walks, bird watching, golf, horse riding, shops pubs cafes restaurants taxi rank outside and bus stop a few yards away.

You can book a suite for a few days or a few weeks – the choice is yours. Prices start from £35 pppn depending on your personal requirements and length of stay etc. There's no better place to be if you want to enjoy sea views in the heart of Seaton – The Terrace offers food, sustenance, pampering and a place to rest.

So if you fancy a cappuccino and home made flapjack or an ice cold beer with nachos or even a three course meal with champagne then stop by and escape to a place that's geared up to suit your needs. They even do take away meals for office, beach or cliff walks!

For reservations text 07586 797571 or call 01297 202225.

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What's On

in The Axe Valley, March-June 2016

Thursday March 31st

Willow basket making at Seaton Wetlands, 9.30am

Learn to make a simple frame basket from willow back by popular demand. A one-day workshop for beginners.

Saturday, April 2

Madame Butterfly (Puccini) Met Opera live streaming at The Gateway, Seaton, 5.30pm

Soprano Kristine Opolais takes on the title role in Anthony Minghella's breath-taking production, which has thrilled audiences ever since its premiere in 2006.

Sunday, April 10th

PECO Pirate Day at Pecorama, Beer, 10am

Family fun with 'Piratical Performances', songs and sea shanties and a Pirate fancy dress competition.

Sunday April 10th

Don Quixote (Bolshoi Ballet) live streaming at The Gateway, Seaton 3.30pm

The critically acclaimed staging of this classic opera featuring Leon Minkus' famous score.

Saturday April 16th

Roberto Devereux (Donizetti) Met Opera live streaming at The Gateway, Seaton 5.30pm

Soprano Sondra Radvanovsky takes on the challenge of singing all three of Donizetti's Tudor queens in the course of a single season, a rare feat made famous by Beverly Sills – and not attempted on a New York stage since.

Sunday April 17th

Seaton Music presents Cellos4 at The Gateway, Seaton 3pm

The acclaimed Devon based quartet will entertain with classical gems and quirky traditional tunes from Bach to Beatles.

Sunday April 24th

Axe Vale Point to Point Racing at Stafford Cross, Southleigh, 1pm

An easy course, which favours speed merchants.

Saturday April 30th

Elektra (Richard Strauss) Met Opera live streaming at The Gateway, Seaton 5.30pm

The genius director Patrice Chéreau

(From the House of the Dead) didn't live to see his great Elektra production, presented in Aix and Milan, make it to the stage of the Met. Patrice Chéreau's overpowering vision lives on with soprano Nina Stemme – unmatched today in the heroic female roles of Strauss and Wagner – who portrays Elektra's primal quest for vengeance.

Sunday May 1st

Seaton Tramways Dinosaur Train, 11am

From the creator of the Muppets, families and children are sure to enjoy this adventure-filled tram ride with music stories and dinosaur activity area at Colyton Station! Plus an opportunity to meet their favourite T.Rex, Buddy!

Monday May 2nd

Bank Holiday Street Market 8am

The First Bank Holiday Street Market of the year is organised by the Seaton Branch of the Royal British Legion. The market is held on the sea front from the island at Fisherman's Gap along the Esplanade Road to the junction of Beach Road.

Sunday May 29th

Pecorama Classic and Vintage Vehicle Rally 10am

The Vintage and Classic Car has become a popular annual event with vehicles travelling from far afield to take part.

Sunday May 29th

Seaton Tramway's Dinosaur Train, 11am

From the creator of the Muppets, families and children are sure to enjoy this adventure-filled tram ride with music, stories and dinosaur activity area at Colyton Station! Plus an opportunity to meet their favourite T.Rex, Buddy!

Monday May 30th

Bank Holiday Monday Street Market, 8am

Spring Bank Holiday Street Market of the year is organised by the Seaton & District Lions Club. The market is held on the sea front from the island at Fisherman's Gap along the Esplanade Road to the junction of Beach Road.

Saturday June 4th

Pecorama Heritage Steam Weekend 10am

The Beer Heights Light Railway will, once again host the weekend of events to celebrate steam power and will include full and small scale Traction Engines and guest locomotives.



Join our local guides for a Walking discovery of COLYTON

From 7th April until 29th September 2016

Walks start from the car park in Dolphin Street at 2.00pm

The tours will take place regardless of weather. It is a gentle walk with frequent stops around the town ending at the Heritage Centre and the adjacent Tea Rooms.

Booking is not required. All profits go to support our Heritage Centre and other local history projects. Look out for the special display of heraldic banners in the town centre in June.

£3 PER PERSON AND UNDER SIXTEENS ARE FREE

At other times (not Thursdays) organised guided walks for groups of ten or more can be arranged by telephoning: 01297 552514 or 01297 33406 or contact us through our website:





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Sir Tim Smit, Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall

Open daily 21st March to 31st October

www.beerquarrycaves.co.uk

Email: john@beerquarrycaves.co.uk

Tel: 01297 680282

Quarry Lane, Beer, Devon. EX12 3AT

Our guides will take you on an hour long tour through the awe-inspiring caves with their mighty halls of vaulted roofs and pillars of Beer Stone which have been likened to a vast underground cathedral.

This vast man-made complex of underground caverns was created by centuries of quarrying the famous Beer Stone. The underground quarry, first worked by the Romans, supplied stone for 24 cathedrals including Exeter and St. Pauls, parts of Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Hampton Court and Windsor Castle. Quarried by hand, a small block weighing 4 tons, the stone was carted on horse-drawn wagons and by barges from Beer beach to its destination, sometimes involving journeys of several hundreds of miles.



History

The caves have a long and interesting history which not only included quarrying, but also as a refuge and place of worship for Catholics during times of persecution, a hiding place for contraband in the days when Beer was home to the infamous smuggler Jack Rattenbury; legend and human interest stories abound. The quarry was worked from Roman times until the beginning of the 20th. century and the entire complex is a vast memorial to those from the village, some as young as eight years old, who worked here over the centuries in flickering candlelight, providing the stone we see today in some of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in England.



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